



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,570	08/08/2005	Reinhard Bauer	05-331	8518
34704 7590 03/05/2009 BACHMAN & LAPOINTE, P.C. 900 CHAPEL STREET SUITE 1201 NEW HAVEN, CT 06510				
EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, TUAN N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3751				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/05/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,570

Applicant(s)

BAUER ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan N. Nguyen

Art Unit

3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/7/08

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/17/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as indicated in the rejection below. The elements of claims 23 and 24 were addressed in the previous rejection within the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claimed language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 18-26 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,142,692 (hereinafter Garcia).

Garcia discloses an application device (Fig. 3) comprising a container (107, 125, 119); an applicator (103) removably attached to the container (at the portion 119); the container (107, 125, 119) has a first region (about M) inside the container for storing a product; and a second region (about 121) inside the container for loading an applicator (about 103) with the product, wherein the second region is separated from the first region. The device further comprises at least one feed passage (about 104) for feeding the product from the first region to the second region. The device further comprises a conveyor means (101) for conveying the product from the first region into the second region and adapted to increase the pressure in the first region (30) relative to the

pressure in the second region. The applicator has a rest position (see Fig. 3) and a working position (see Fig. 5) and the movement of the applicator from the rest position into the working position causes actuation of the conveyor means (see col. 6, line 44 et seq.). The device further comprises a receiving region (about 129), which is separated from the first region (about M), for the applicator when in the rest position. The second region (about 121) adjoins the receiving region (about 129) such that the applicator (about 103) passes the second region when it is removed from the receiving region for moving the applicator into the working position. The device comprises a screwthread which has a first screwthread element (the inner thread about 124) and a second screwthread element (the outer thread about 123) for movement of the applicator from the rest position into the working position (see Fig. 5), and a coupling (107) for coupling the first screwthread element to the conveyor means (115). The coupling is a one-way coupling in a sense that fixedly held members (124, 108 and 115) therein. The conveyor means (101) has a piston-cylinder device (115). The conveyor means (101) has a rotary drive (defines by threads of 123 and 124). The rotary drive has a hollow spindle (about 121) having an internal space (the internal space of 121), wherein the internal space is designed for receiving and/or passing therethrough the applicator and on the outside surface of which is provided a screwthread (see Fig. 5, about 123). The device further comprises a wiper (128) for wiping product from the applicator before and after use of the applicator.

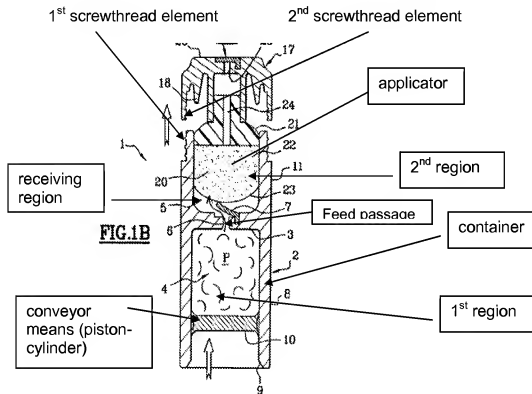
4. Claims 18-23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 3,008,172 (hereinafter Thompson).

Thompson discloses an application device (Fig. 3) comprising a container (33, 34); an applicator (16) removably attached to the container; the container (33, 34) has a first region (the region about 9) inside the container for storing a product; and a second region (the inner region about 31) inside the container for loading an applicator with the product, wherein the second region is separated from the first region. The device further comprises at least one feed passage (defined by the inner space of 36) for feeding the product from the first region to the second region. The device further comprises a conveyor means (8, 9) for conveying the product from the first region into the second region and adapted to increase the pressure in the first region relative to the pressure in the second region. The applicator has a rest position (see Fig. 3, when stored inside member 34) and a working position and the movement of the applicator from the rest position into the working position causes actuation of the conveyor means (see col. 3, line 39 et seq.). The device further comprises a receiving region (about 16), which is separated from the first region (about 6), for the applicator when in the rest position. The device comprises a screwthread (about 33) which has a first screwthread element (the inner thread of cap 30) and a second screwthread element (the outer thread of container 34) for movement of the applicator from the rest position into the working position (see col. 3, line 39 et seq.), and a coupling (30, 28, 35) for coupling the first screwthread element to the conveyor means (8, 9). The coupling is a one-way coupling in a sense that only the teeth (31 and 32) can fit to each other. The coupling is a ratchet coupling (see col. 3, line 60 et seq.). The coupling has at least one elastic ratchet

element (teeth 31 or 32). The conveyor means has a piston-cylinder device (8). The conveyor means has a rotary drive (9).

5. Claims 18-21, 23, 24 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,305,863 (hereinafter Gueret).

Gueret teaches the claimed elements as sketch below:



Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4892. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (10:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3751